

Life Cycle Logistics Functional Community

Overview: The Life Cycle Logistics career field spans the entire system life cycle, encompassing both acquisition and sustainment activities, and includes professionals responsible for planning, development, implementation, and management of effective and affordable weapons, materiel, or information systems product support strategies. Details are available in the [Defense AT&L Workforce Position Category Description \(PCD\) for the Life Cycle Logistics functional community](#) and the [2008 DoD Logistics Human Capital Strategy \(HCS\)](#). Detailed career field demographic information is also available on the AT&L Human Capital Initiatives (HCI) "[Defense Acquisition Workforce Data and Information Summaries](#)" website.

Life cycle logisticians perform a principal joint and/or DoD component logistics role during both the acquisition and operational phases of a system's life cycle to: ensure product support strategies meet program goals for operational effectiveness and readiness; ensure supportability requirements are addressed consistently with cost, schedule, and performance; ensure supportability considerations are implemented during systems design; meet system materiel availability, materiel reliability, operations and support cost, and mean down time objectives; and deliver optimal life cycle product support. To be successful, they must therefore be proficient in the following seven top level [Life Cycle Logistics competency areas](#) spanning the twelve Integrated Product Support (IPS) Elements:

- Logistics Design Influence
- Integrated Product Support (IPS) Planning
- Product Support and Sustainment
- Configuration Management
- Reliability and Maintainability Analysis
- Technical/Product Data Management
- Supportability Analysis

Detailed information on each of the twelve IPS Elements is available in:

- [DoD Product Support Manager \(PSM\) Guidebook Appendix A](#)
- [DoD Integrated Product Support \(IPS\) Element Guidebook](#)
- [DAU Logistics Community of Practice \(LOG CoP\) IPS Element Site](#)

Objectives: Life cycle logisticians pursue two primary objectives, namely to ensure that weapons systems are designed, maintained, and modified to continuously reduce the demand for logistics; and to ensure effective and efficient logistics support. The resources required to provide product support must be minimized while meeting warfighter needs and ensuring long-term affordable materiel readiness.

Life cycle logisticians achieve these objectives by ensuring the integration of the [twelve Integrated Product Support \(IPS\) elements](#) to maximize supportability, reliability, availability, maintainability, mission effectiveness, and affordability of the system throughout its life cycle. They influence system design and provide effective, timely product support capabilities that drive effective, best value product support planning and execution. Emphasis is placed on ensuring materiel readiness at optimal life cycle costs and integrating life cycle management principles by designing and implementing performance-based life cycle product support strategies to provide effective system support. Life cycle logisticians can work directly in a program management office, in support of the program manager, or in other supporting and sustainment logistics activity offices.

Background: The genesis of today's [Life Cycle Logistics defense acquisition workforce functional community](#) came from what at one time was called the "Acquisition Logistics" career field. This changed in March 2003 when the career field Functional Leader (at that time called "Functional Advisor"), the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics Plans & Programs issued a memo entitled

[“Functional Advisor \(FA\) Annual Certification Report.”](#) This memo stated in part stated the career field “position category description no longer is restricted to the Acquisition Logistics career field, but has broadened in scope to encompass the Life Cycle Logistics career field.” The direction was subsequently expanded in a April 26, 2004 [“Life Cycle Logistics Workforce Changes”](#) memo in which the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics Plans & Programs stated, “ in March 2003, the Deputy Director, Defense Procurement & Acquisition Policy (Acquisition Workforce & Career Management) approved a change to the former Acquisition Logistics Career Field making it the Life Cycle Logistics Career Field. This policy provided a Position Category Description that identified two career paths: acquisition logistics and systems sustainment management. Continued evolution of acquisition and logistics transformation, together with the reengineering of the DAU logistics curriculum, make it appropriate to move to a unified Life Cycle Logistics Career Field, Career Path, and Training.” Additional information on the transition and history of the Life Cycle Logistics career field is available in a May-June 2014 Defense AT&L Magazine article entitled [“The Defense Life-Cycle Logistics Journey: A 10-Year Retrospective of Product Support Transformation.”](#)

Professional Development: Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certification is required for each defense acquisition workforce functional area. The most current Life Cycle Logistics [training, education, and experience certification requirements](#) and related professional development information is available on the [DAU Logistics Community of Practice \(LOG CoP\) Professional Development web site](#).

Product Support Manager (PSM): DAWIA Level III certified life cycle logisticians can also serve as [DoD Product Support Managers \(PSM\)](#), with statutory responsibilities outlined in [10 U.S.C. §2337](#) to:

- develop and implement a comprehensive product support strategy for the weapon system;
- use appropriate predictive analysis and modeling tools that can improve material availability and reliability, increase operational availability rates, and reduce operation and sustainment costs;
- conduct appropriate cost analyses to validate the product support strategy, including cost-benefit analyses as outlined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-94;
- ensure achievement of desired product support outcomes through development and implementation of appropriate product support arrangements;
- adjust performance requirements and resource allocations across product support integrators and product support providers as necessary to optimize implementation of the product support strategy;
- periodically review product support arrangements between the product support integrators and product support providers to ensure the arrangements are consistent with the overall product support strategy;
- prior to each change in the product support strategy or every five years, whichever occurs first, revalidate any business-case analysis performed in support of the product support strategy;
- ensure that the product support strategy maximizes small business participation at the appropriate tiers; and
- ensure that product support arrangements for the weapon system describe how such arrangements will ensure efficient procurement, management, and allocation of Government-owned parts inventories in order to prevent unnecessary procurements of such parts

as well as other duties such as:

- providing weapon systems product support expertise to the Program Manager (PM) for the execution of the PM's [DoDD 5000.01](#) duties as the Total Life Cycle Systems Manager
- developing and implementing a comprehensive, outcome-based product support strategy
- promoting opportunities to maximize competition while meeting the objective of best-value, long-term outcomes to the warfighter
- seeking to leverage enterprise opportunities across programs and DoD Components
- using appropriate analytical tools and conducting appropriate cost analyses, to determine the most affordable and effective product support strategy

- developing and implementing appropriate product support arrangements
- assessing and adjusting resource allocations and performance requirements for product support to meet validated warfighter requirements and optimize implementation of the product support strategy
- documenting the product support strategy in the [Life Cycle Sustainment Plan \(LCSP\)](#)
- conducting periodic product support strategy reviews and revalidating the supporting business case analysis

Conclusion: Both life cycle logisticians and product support managers are ultimately responsible for designing, developing, implementing, and sustaining tailored life cycle product support that optimizes affordability, materiel readiness and joint warfighter requirements, and provides the nation an enduring strategic advantage over its adversaries.

Total Life Cycle Logistics Workforce Size: 17,815 (as of January 1, 2014)